



**Environmental Services Division**  
Energy and Waste Management Bureau

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**GASOLINE AND HEATING OIL PRICES CONTINUE DECLINE AS INVENTORIES REMAIN ABOVE AVERAGE; COLDER WEATHER AFFECTS PROPANE NUMBERS**

DES MOINES — Gasoline and heating oil prices across Iowa continued to decline during the past month as U.S. inventories remained above average for this time of year. However, late-winter cold weather in many parts of the nation continued to push propane inventories sharply lower.

“The relatively mild January weather helped keep inventories strong, which in turn helped to stabilize prices,” said Tami Foster, energy data analyst for the DNR.

According to Foster, with February being much colder, inventory draws during the first two weeks of the month have approached nearly 80 percent of the entire monthly draw average for February. The stronger inventories from January have helped offset any price increases as a result of the high use in February.

On Feb. 13, the average retail price of propane was \$1.49 per gallon, \$0.04 lower than last month and 20 percent above the retail price of propane at this time last year (\$1.24 last year’s price).

The fuel price survey reported the average retail price of No. 2 heating oil was \$2.11 per gallon, the same as last month and 32 percent above last year’s price at this time (\$1.60 per gallon).

On Feb. 15, natural gas was trading at \$7.35/MMBtu, \$1.44 lower than last month and 22 percent above the price of natural gas at this time last year (\$6.02/MMBtu).

On Feb. 15, regular gasoline blended with ethanol in Iowa was selling for \$2.16 per gallon. This was \$0.02 lower than last month, and 17 percent higher than this time last year (\$1.84 per gallon).

The latest data shows that ethanol-blended gasoline represented 76 percent of all retail gasoline sold in December. All auto manufacturers warrant the E-10 blend of 10 percent alcohol and 90 percent gasoline for use.

The average price for regular gasoline in Iowa was \$2.18. This was \$0.03 lower than last month, and 18 percent higher than this time last year (\$1.84 per gallon).

The average price for diesel in Iowa was \$2.45, the same as last month, but still 23 percent higher than this time last year (\$1.99 per gallon).

Oil prices settled at \$57.66 on Feb. 15, \$8.66 lower than the previous month and 19 percent higher than last year (\$48.34).

Consumers should make improvements to their homes' efficiency to help lessen the blow. Simply caulking and weather-stripping to eliminate air leaks can save 10 percent on a typical home's energy bill. More tips for saving energy and money at home and on the road are available at [www.EnergySavingTips.gov](http://www.EnergySavingTips.gov).

#### MOTOR FUELS SURVEY STATE AVERAGES

<b>Self-Serve</b>	<b>January 15</b>	<b>February 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Regular Unleaded with Ethanol	2.18	2.16	-0.02
Regular Unleaded	2.21	2.18	-0.03
Premium Unleaded	2.29	2.28	-0.01
Diesel	2.45	2.45	-

Source: Oil Price Information Service, [www.opisnet.com](http://www.opisnet.com)

#### AVERAGE SELF-SERVE REGULAR WITH ETHANOL PRICES IN MAJOR CITIES

	<b>January 15</b>	<b>February 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Ames	2.17	2.18	+0.01
Cedar Rapids	2.17	2.14	-0.03
Council Bluffs	2.15	2.10	-0.05
Davenport	2.22	2.15	-0.07
Des Moines	2.11	2.10	-0.01
Dubuque	2.20	2.16	-0.04
Fort Dodge	2.13	2.16	+0.03
Iowa City	2.21	2.20	-0.01
Sioux City	2.19	2.17	-0.02
Waterloo	2.07	2.10	+0.03
Webster City	2.25	2.30	+0.05
Average Metro Price	2.18	2.16	-0.02

Source: Oil Price Information Service, [www.opisnet.com](http://www.opisnet.com)

#### HEATING FUELS SURVEY

	<b>January 17</b>	<b>February 21</b>	<b>Change</b>
Natural Gas	8.78	7.40	-1.38
Propane	1.53	1.47	-0.06
#2 Heating Oil	2.10	2.11	+0.01

Sources: Wall Street Journal, Iowa Department of Natural Resources